

D-657
Galestown
Nineteenth and twentieth centuries
Public and private

Galestown is historically interesting as a distinct community in southeastern Dorchester County that formed during the first decades of the nineteenth century around a mill enterprise established on Gales Creek, a tributary of the Nanticoke River. The small mill community served the residents of the southeastern corner of the Fork district as well as those individuals residing in adjacent Sussex County, Delaware on the east side of the Mason-Dixon line, less than a mile distant from the village.

The earliest indication that a village was forming along the lower reach of Gales Creek before it enters the Nanticoke occurred during the first decades of the nineteenth century. Key to the start of a village here was the patenting of a tract of land known as "Saw Mill Privilege" by James Twilley in 1814. While the Saw Mill Privilege survey came out of another tract known as "Salem," located on the east side of Gales Creek, the land on which most of the village developed is known as "Utopia," which was surveyed for Hugh Eccleston as early as 1708.

James Twilley surfaces in the land records as the owner of saw and grist mills, and in 1819 he conveyed half-interest in the enterprise to Francis Turpin of Rehoboth for \$2,500. Encompassing parts of "Utopia" and "Saw Mill Privilege" as well as part of "Salem," the property description includes mention of the rights to the mill, its equipment and the "drowned" lands at "Twilley's Mills," the evident name for the community at the time. James Twilley sold the other half-interest in the mill enterprise to Ezekial Wheatley in April 1823. The land on the west side of Gales Creek comprising

the tract "Utopia" was largely held by planter James Fletcher during the early history of the village. He acquired a 101-acre section of the tract from Nathan Bradley in April 1812, and within ten years was selling small acreages to various grantees. In August 1821 James Fletcher conveyed a 1/4-acre parcel of "Utopia" to Thomas W. Collins and the property boundary references the "North East corner of the store house yard at Twilley's Mills." Four months earlier, Fletcher had conveyed another 1/4-acre parcel of "Utopia" to Stephen and Henry Benson for \$25. There were other transfers of small acreages including to acres to James Twilley in 1819 and a five-acre parcel of "Utopia" and "Saw Mill Privilege" to Thomas Russell in December 1820. Clearly the milling enterprises were the catalysts for opening a store nearby, which encouraged others to buy small parcels for house lots in the developing village. By the early 1830s, the name had changed to Gales Town, presumably inspired by the name of the creek and the prominent family which had settled in the region during the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

During the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the village grew modestly in population and commerce, the point of shipping lumber, grain, and other materials was Truitt's Wharf on the Nanticoke River, 3/4 of a mile south of the mills. The residents of Galestown most likely attended either of two Methodist churches, Cokesbury or Wheatley's chapels, about a mile north or west respectively. By the early 1850s, resident support for a village church had grown sufficiently to warrant a new Methodist congregation in Galestown itself. On October 10, 1854, a 1/4-acre lot on which the house of worship had been recently built was conveyed by Joseph H. and Sarah Bell to the church trustees. (See D-753) During the decades before and after the Civil War, the

village served the rural populations of the Fork District in Dorchester County and Sussex County, Delaware the Mason-Dixon line separating the two counties is less than a mile east of Galestown. The commercial shipping on the Nanticoke was key to the community's viability, although freight and passenger transportation was broadened with the laying of the Dorchester and Delaware Railroad between Seaford and Cambridge in 1869. The nearest station was Oak Grove in Sussex County, Delaware.

By the time that Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson published their atlas of Talbot and Dorchester counties in 1877, Galestown was a well developed mill village defined by two milling concerns operated by J. H. Bell Brothers & Co. and J. J. and A. B. Truitt. J. H. Bell also operated one of the two general stores; the other was owned by the firm, Smith & Wheatley, which is included in the atlas patron list. Also designated at Galestown were several dwellings owned by ship captains including Captains Callaway, Vincent and Walston. Dr. F. A. Roop had a dwelling and medical practice in the town as well.

The year following the publication of the Talbot and Dorchester atlas, the *Maryland Directory* published the following description of Galestown:

[It] Is 7 miles from Oak Grove on the D. & D. R. R. and three fourths of a mile from Truitt's Wharf, the shipping point on the Nanticoke River. The situation is pleasant, and the vicinity healthy. Land sandy loam and clay, easily improved; one-half cleared and productive; sells at from \$5 to \$25 per acre; produces 10 to 25 bus. wheat, 10 to 30 oats, and from 150 to 200 potatoes. The land is well adapted to the growth of vegetables and fruits of all kinds. M. E. Church, Rev. T. H. Harding. Two public schools, Population 200. J. H. Bell, Postmaster.

Six years later Galestown's businesses were summarized, and by record of R. L. Polk's *Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia Gazetteer and Business Directory* there were 250 residents in the town, two general stores, two flour mills, a blacksmith, an undertaker, and six carpenters. Adding to the economic profile for many communities across

Dorchester County and the Eastern Shore in general were canning companies that processed local fruits and vegetables. Some canning companies were seasonally operated according to the schedule of harvests. The earliest known mention of a cannery in Galestown in the 1880 listing of the Enterprise Canning Company, however, little else is known about the firm. The Galestown Canning Company operated between 1905 and 1921, and several other firms operated in the town during the early to mid twentieth century.

The early twentieth century witnessed other improvements for village residents; the telephone came to the village in 1908 and electricity in 1915. The residents of surrounding farms, however, did not have electricity until the rural electrification program was implemented during the Roosevelt administration. Following the stock market failure of 1929 and the attendant depression the ensued, growth in the town stagnated like other communities in the region. The population started a slow decline as residents left to find work in Cambridge, Salisbury, or Seaford, Delaware businesses and factories. One individual effort to introduce a new business in Galestown, the manufacture of shirts, was begun by George E. H. Wheatley around 1913, however the enterprise was evidently short-lived. The shirt factory structure, a single-story concrete block building in the center of Galestown, was purchased and used by the Galestown Council No. 51 of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics as a lodge hall between 1914 and 1936. A competing fraternity, the local chapter of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, known as Rescue Lodge No. 155, met in Galestown between 1913 and 1968.

The main source of Galestown's industry and early reason for its economic vitality, the mill—purchased in 1924 by Robert Records and T. E. Smoot at public auction—operated until the late 1940s, after which it stood idle for several decades. It was demolished around 1970. By the late twentieth century, the population had dwindled to around 125 residents and one general store, which was operated by Elijah Wheedleton and his wife. After the turn of the twenty-first century, little commercial activity took place in the town and it remains a quiet residential village in the midst of a productive agricultural region.

Inventory No. D-657

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Galestown Survey District
other	Gales Town, Twilley's Mills

2. Location

street and number	Galestown Road and Indiantown Road	— not for publication
city, town	Sharptown	x vicinity
county	Dorchester	

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

Multiple Owners			
name			
street and number		telephone	
city, town		state	zip code

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Dorchester Clerk of Circuit Court	liber	folio
city, town	Cambridge	tax map	tax parcel
			tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>20</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>21</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u>1</u>	

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The survey district of Galestown is located in the southeastern corner of the Fork Election District in Dorchester County, Maryland. The small village is clustered around the intersection of three roads, Indiantown Road, Galestown Road, and Wheatley Church Road. Galestown Road passes across Gales Creek, which was blocked during the early nineteenth century as a mill dam. The survey district is defined by approximately 20 contributing resources, most of which line Indiantown Road. A mill at the current mill dam location no longer exists; it was demolished during the third quarter of the twentieth century. Although historically interesting as a group of late nineteenth and twentieth century structures, the integrity of the surviving structures does not warrant listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Galestown is a small rural village located on Gales Creek in the southeastern corner of the Fork District in Dorchester County, Maryland. Accessed by Indiantown Road from the south and Galestown Road from the north, the nineteenth century community developed on each side of the creek, which was dammed in the early nineteenth century for the purposes of a saw mill. Galestown is currently defined by approximately 20 contributing resources, most of which line Indiantown Road which runs basically north/south parallel with the creek. While the creek is navigable for small boats, the main shipping location was Truitt's wharf, which was located on the east side of Gales Creek along the Nanticoke River. The principal historic structures in the village include the Galestown United Methodist Church (D-753), built in 1889 by a Methodist Episcopal congregation. The only surviving commercial structure is the former Galestown Council #51 Lodge of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, which was also known as "The Shirt Factory." The combination concrete block and frame structure stands on the east side of Indiantown Road (former Main Street) just south of its intersection with Galestown Road.

The small number of houses that define Galestown range in date from the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century. All of frame construction, most structures are two-story, three- or two-bay houses with low brick or concrete block foundations. The houses are mostly sheathed with asbestos shingles, aluminum or vinyl siding that covers original horizontal weatherboards. The medium to steeply pitched roofs are covered with asphalt shingles for the most part. One of the more distinctive dwellings is the Vincent-Bell house that stands across the street from the former Junior Order of United American Mechanics lodge building. Dating around 1882, the two-story, three-bay house is distinguished with bracketed lintels on the first and second floor windows as well as the small attic windows. Interior end brick stacks rise through each gable end. The former Junior Order lodge building is a two-story, two-bay by four-bay commercial block with the first story erected in smooth faced concrete block. The second story is built with a timber frame sheathed with weatherboard siding. An intact gable front entrance includes a recessed double-

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door entry flanked by large display windows. Another distinctive early twentieth century structure is the Galestown Community Hall, a single-story hip roofed concrete block building erected around 1930 on a site along the north side of Galestown Road west of the main intersection.

The mill pond still provides a significant presence in the village although the last mill to operate in the village was demolished during the third quarter of the twentieth century around 1970.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Galestown is historically interesting as a distinct community in southeastern Dorchester County that formed during the first decades of the nineteenth century around a mill that was established on Gales Creek, a tributary of the Nanticoke. The cluster of approximately 20 frame dwellings, however, does not warrant listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The last mill at this location was torn down around 1970 after standing idle for thirty years. The most distinctive structure surviving in the village is the Galestown United Methodist Church, which was built for a Methodist Episcopal congregation in 1889-90. The other structures that define the village are mostly modest examples of late nineteenth- and early twentieth century frame structures.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The earliest indication that a village was forming along the lower reach of Gales Creek before it empties into the Nanticoke River occurred during the first decades of the nineteenth century. Key to the start of a village here was the patenting of a tract of land known as Saw Mill Privilege by James Twilley in 1814.¹ While the Saw Mill Privilege survey came out of the tract known as Salem, located on the east side of Gales Creek, the land on which most of the village developed is known as "Utopia," which was surveyed for Hugh Eccleston as early as 1708.²

James Twilley surfaces in the land transfers as the owner of a saw mill and grist mill, and in 1819 he conveyed half-interest in the enterprise to Francis Turpin of Rehoboth for \$2,500.³ Encompassing parts of "Utopia" and "Saw Mill Privilege" and part of "Salem," the property description includes mention of the rights to the mill, its equipment and the "drowned" lands at "Twilley's Mills." James Twilley sold the other half-interest in the mill enterprise to Ezekial Wheatley in April 1823.⁴ The land

¹ Land survey research by Bill Collison, personal phone interview and e-mail correspondence, 3.19.2008.

² *Ibid.*

³ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 6/63, 3 September 1819, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 9/115, 25 April 1823, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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on the west side of Gales Creek comprising the tract "Utopia" was largely held by planter James Fletcher during the early history of the village. He acquired a 101-acre section of the tract from Nathan Bradley in April 1812⁵, and within ten years was selling small acreages to various grantees. In August 1821 James Fletcher conveyed a ¼-acre parcel of "Utopia" to Thomas W. Collins, and the property boundary references the "North East corner of the store house yard at Twilley's Mills."⁶ Four months earlier, Fletcher had conveyed another ¼-acre parcel of "Utopia" to Stephen and Henry Benson for \$25.⁷ There were other transfers of small acreages including two acres to James Twilley in 1819⁸ and a five-acre parcel of "Utopia" and "Saw Mill Privilege" to Thomas Russell in December 1820.⁹ Clearly the milling enterprises were the catalysts for opening a store nearby, which encouraged others to buy small parcels for house lots in the developing mill village. By the early 1830s, the name had changed to Gales Town,¹⁰ presumably inspired by the name of the creek and the prominent family who settled in the area and other sections of the lower Eastern Shore during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The village grew modestly in population and commerce, the point of shipping lumber, grain and other materials was Truitt's Wharf on the Nanticoke River, ¾ of a mile south of the mills. The residents in Galestown most likely attended either Cokesbury or Wheatley's Methodist Chapels, about a mile north or west, respectively. By the early 1850s, resident support for a village church had grown sufficiently to warrant a new Methodist congregation in Galestown itself. On October 10, 1854, a ¼-acre lot on which the house of worship had been recently erected was conveyed by Joseph H. and Sarah Bell to the church trustees. (See D-753) During the decades before and after the Civil War, the village served the rural populations of Dorchester County and Sussex County, Delaware; the Mason-Dixon line separating the two counties is less than a mile east of Galestown. The commercial shipping on the Nanticoke was key to the community's economic health and development, and transportation options were enhanced with the laying of the Dorchester and Delaware Railroad between Seaford and Cambridge in 1869. The nearest station was Oak Grove, Delaware.

By the time that Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson published their atlas of Talbot and Dorchester Counties in 1877, Galestown was a well developed mill village defined by two milling concerns operated by J. H. Bell Brothers & Co. and J. J. and A. B. Truitt.¹¹ J. H. Bell also operated one of the two general stores; the other was owned by the firm Smith & Wheatley, which is listed in the atlas patron

⁵ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 2/54, April 1812, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁶ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 8/98, 17 August 1821, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁷ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 6/537, 27 April 1821, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁸ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 5/478, 3 April 1819, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁹ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 6/420, 8 December 1820, Dorchester County Courthouse.

¹⁰ The earliest known reference to the name Galestown is cited in Dorchester County Land Record, ER 14/281, 27 October 1834, Dorchester County Courthouse.

¹¹ The Maryland Directory, J. Frank Lewis & Co., 1878, p. 251.

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list.¹² Also designated at Galestown were several dwellings owned by ship captains including Captains Callaway, Vincent and Walston.¹³ Dr. F. A. Roop had a dwelling and medical practice in the town as well.

The year following the publication of the atlas of Talbot and Dorchester counties, *The Maryland Directory* printed the following description of Galestown:

*[It] Is 7 miles from Oak Grove on the D. & D. R. R., and three fourths of a mile from Truitt's Wharf, the shipping point on the Nanticoke River. The situation is pleasant, and the vicinity healthy. Land sandy loam and clay, easily improved; one-half cleared and productive; sells at from \$5 to \$25 per acre; produces 10 to 20 bus. wheat, 10 to 30 oats, and from 150 to 200 potatoes. The land is well adapted to the growth of vegetables and fruits of all kinds. M. E. Church, Rev. T. H. Harding. Two public schools, Population 200, J. H. Bell, Postmaster.*¹⁴

Six years later Galestown's businesses were summarized, and by record of R. L. Polk's *Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia State Gazetteer and Business Directory* there were 250 residents in the town, two general stores, two flour mills, a blacksmith, an undertaker and six carpenters.¹⁵ Adding to the economic profile for many communities across Dorchester County and the Eastern Shore in general were canning companies who processed local fruits and vegetables. Some canning companies were seasonally operated according to the schedule of the harvests. The earliest known mention of a cannery in Galestown is the 1880 listing of the Enterprise Canning Company, however little else is known about the firm.¹⁶ The Galestown Canning Company operated between 1905 and 1921¹⁷ and several other firms operated in the town during the early to mid twentieth century.

The early twentieth century witnessed other improvements for village residents; the telephone came to the village in 1908 and electricity in 1915.¹⁸ The residents of the farms surrounding Galestown, however, did not have electricity until the rural electrification program was implemented during the Roosevelt administration. Following the stock market failure of 1929 and the attendant depression that followed, growth in the town stagnated like other communities across the region. The population started

¹² John L. Graham, *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Wicomico County Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 66.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *The Maryland Directory*, J. Frank Lewis & Co., 1878.

¹⁵ *Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, Baltimore, MD: R. L. Polk & Co., 1884, p. 498.

¹⁶ R. Lee Burton, Jr. *Canneries of the Eastern Shore*, Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1986, pp. 90-95.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *North Dorchester Heritage Festival*, Hurlock, Maryland, June 5-11, 1955, pp. 14-15.

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a slow decline as residents left to find work in Cambridge, Salisbury, or Seaford, Delaware businesses and factories. One individual effort to introduce a new business in Galestown, the manufacture of shirts, was begun by George E. H. Wheatley around 1913, but the enterprise was evidently short-lived. The shirt factory structure, a single-story concrete block building, was purchased and used by the Galestown Council #51 of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics as a lodge hall between 1914 and 1936. A competing fraternity, the local chapter of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows known as Rescue Lodge No. 155 met in Galestown between 1913 and 1968.

The main source of Galestown's industry and early source of economic vitality, the mill—purchased in 1924 by Robert Records and T. E. Smoot at public auction—operated until the late 1940s after which it stood idle for several decades. It was demolished around 1970.¹⁹ By the late twentieth century the population had dwindled to around 125 residents and one general store operated by Elijah Wheedleton and his wife.²⁰ After the turn of the twenty-first century, little commercial activity took place in the town and it remains a quiet rural village in the midst of a productive agricultural region.

¹⁹ Nancy C. Wheatley, *History of Galestown*, typed manuscript, c. 1984-85, p. 2.

²⁰ *Ibid.* p. 8.

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Galestown Survey District

Research File

1878

The Maryland Directory, J. Frank Lewis & Company, Baltimore

GALESTOWN

Is 7 miles from Oak Grove on the D. & D. R. R. and three-fourths of a mile from Truitt's Wharf, the shipping point on the Nanticoke River. The situation is pleasant, and the vicinity healthy. Land sandy loam and clay, easily improved; one-half cleared, and productive; sells at from \$5 to \$25 per acre; produces 10 to 20 bus. wheat, 10 to 30 oats, and from 150 to 200 potatoes. The land is well adapted to the growth of vegetables of all kinds. M. E. church, Rev. T. H. Harding. Two public schools. Population 200. J. E. Bell, Postmaster

Carpenter and Mason

Jones, G W

General Merchandise

Bell, J H
Smith & Wheatley

Millers

Bell, J H. Bro. & Co.
Truitt, J. J. & A B

Physician

Roop, F A

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Dorchester County
Land Record
ER 15/237

Henry Benston and Elizabeth of Sussex Co., Delaware

to

12.5.1835

Jacob Wilson

Part of Utopia in the village of Galestown, part of a tract conveyed by
James Fletcher to said Henry Benston and Stephen Benston

¼ acre

Dorchester County
Land Record
ER 14/281

Deed mentions "lot near Galestown"

(Earliest mention of village by name to date in research..03.12.08)

10.27.1834

Dorchester County
Land Record
ER 9/115

James Twilley

to

4.26.1823

Ezekial Wheatley

\$1264.00 ½ of saw mill and grist mill with the drowned (sic) lands

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Dorchester County
Land Record
ER 8/98

James Fletcher

to

8.17.1821

Thomas W. Collins

\$20.00 "Utopia" $\frac{1}{4}$ acre Beginning for the out bounds of the aforesaid part of tract or parcel of land so sold out at a cedar post at the end of a line drawn South west six perches and one half perch distance from the North East corner of the store house yard at Twilleys Mills and from thence runs South east six perches and one half perch and three links to another Cedar post then

Dorchester County
Land Record
ER 6/420

James Fletcher

to

12.8.1820

Thomas Russell

\$35.00 "Saw Mill Priviledge" 5 acres cut out of "Utopia"

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Dorchester County
Land Record
ER 6/537

James Fletcher

to

4.27.1821

Stephen and Henry Benson

\$25.00 "Utopia" $\frac{1}{4}$ acre

Dorchester County
Land Record
ER 6/63

James Twilley

to

9.3.1819

Francis Turpin

\$2,500 $\frac{1}{2}$ interest in mill property... "Utopia, Saw Mill Privilege"

all the one half of his saw mill and grist mill with the drouned land and such other land a it may hereafter be necessary to dround (sic) for the use of said mills as also all the utensils necessary for or appertaining to said Mills as will all the one half of the three following parts of tracts and parcels of land hereafter mentioned and described to wit: part of tract called Utopia, part of the tract called Salem and part of the tract called Saw Mill Priviledge

17 acres mentioned Twilleys Mills in description

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Dorchester County
Land Record
ER 5/478

James Fletcher

to

4.3.1819

James Twilley

"Utopia" 2 acres, 29 square perches

Patent

Saw Mill Privilege

1814

Dorchester County
Land Record
ER 2/54

Nathan Bradley

to

4.1812

James Fletcher

"Utopia" 101 acres

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Burton, R. Lee, Jr. *Canneries of the Eastern Shore*. Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1986.

Collison, William, Land Record Research and Survey Bounds in the Fork Election District.

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Graham, John L. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Wicomico County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Wheatley, Nancy, *History of Galestown*, n.d. typed manuscript.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 30 acres

Acreage of historical setting 50 acres

Quadrangle name Sharptown, MD, DEL

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this survey district are coincidental with the current bounds of the incorporatd town.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	3.18.08
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

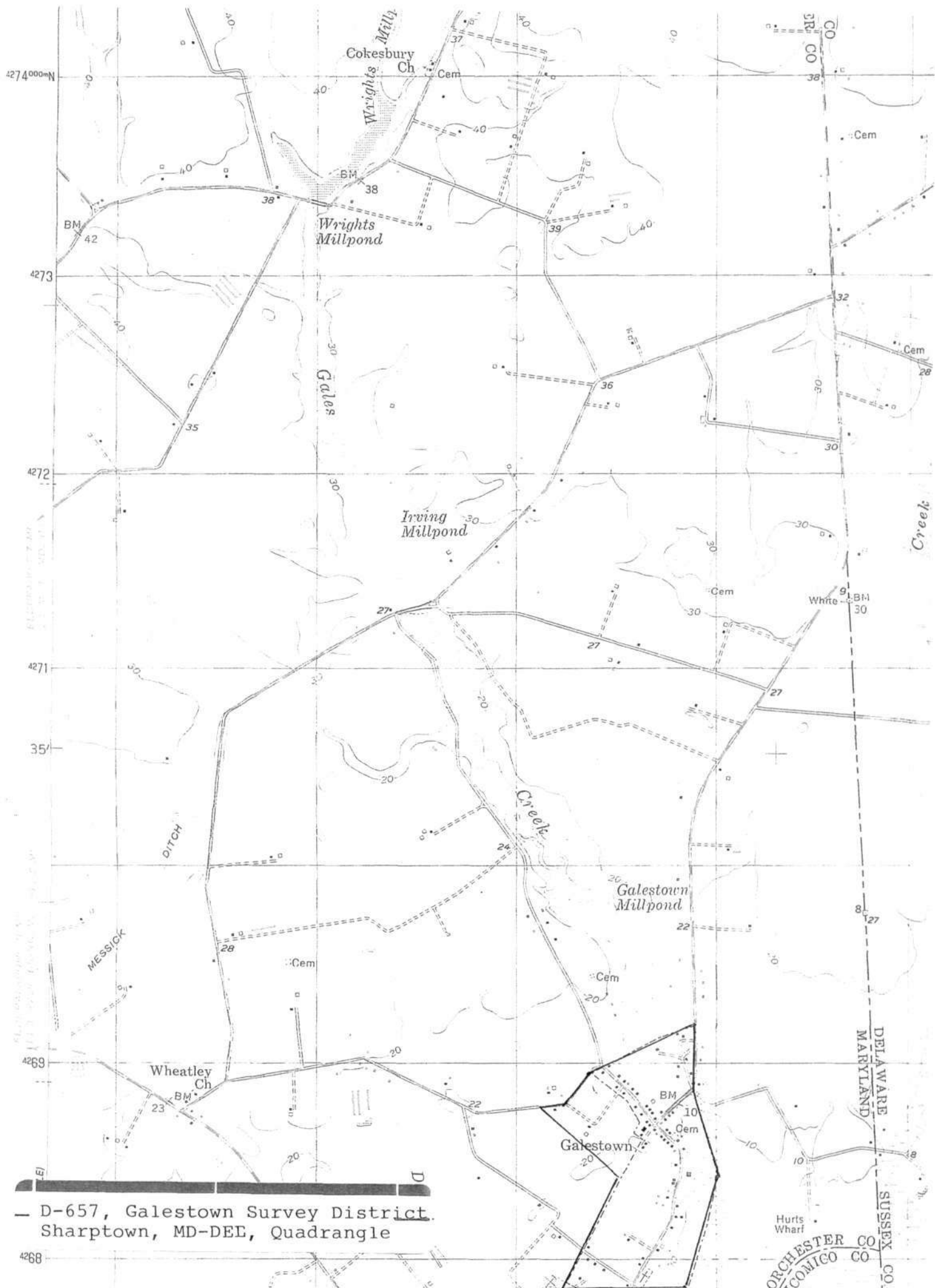
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

SMITH & WHEATLEY, Dealers in
Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes.
Clothing, Notions, &c. Galveston P.



D-657, Galestown Survey District
Lake, Griffing and Stevenson
1877



- D-657, Galestown Survey District.
 Sharptown, MD-DEE, Quadrangle

DELAWARE
 MARYLAND
 SUSSEX CO.
 ORCHESTER CO.
 COMICO CO.



D-657

GALESTOWN SURVEY DISTRICT

GALESTOWN, DORCHESTER CO., MD.

MAIN ST. LOOKING SOUTH

3/08, PAUL TOWNT, PHOTOGRAPHIC

WEG/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1/1

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. D-657

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GALESTOWN SURVEY DISTRICT

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Wheatley Church Road and Galestown-Reliance Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Galestown ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Dorchester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Various Owners

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Courthouse liber

street & number High Street folio

city, town Cambridge state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. D-657

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

8. Significance

Survey No. D-657

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

THE HISTORY OF GALESTOWN

by

Nancy C. Wheatley
Telephone: 301-883-3463

Galestown, a small town in the northern part of Dorchester County, Maryland near the Maryland-Delaware border close to the Mason-Dixon line, was named for a certain Dr. Gales, one of its first citizens, or a member of the Gale Family. It may be impossible to trace the history of the exact naming of the town, but Dorchester County and Somerset County documents give great details of the lives and contributions of the Gale Family, which was directly related to George Washington. Levin Gale served as Chief Justice, which may have a great significance in the name of the town.

Galestown was settled along a creek bearing the name Gales Creek. More than a century ago, three boats, "The Fair Trader," "The Reddie," and "The Method," were built on Gales Creek. Among the oldest deeds in the possession of a Galestown resident is a deed dated April 17, 1714 for a tract of land known as "Harper's Adventure" which joins the property now occupied by Mrs. David L. Wheatley and her daughter, Nancy. There is also evidence that the Galestown area was at one time Indian territory.

Among the earliest business establishments in Galestown was a large grain mill on the site of the Galestown Millpond. The mill flourished because the community grew up to serve the needs of the large agricultural area. The old mill was operated by a water wheel controlled by a system of gates that opened and closed. One old mill, owned by Walter Hastings, at that time, burned in approximately 1912 and was replaced with a new one.

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In 1924, the mill was sold to Robert Records and T. E. Smoot for the sum of \$5,450 at a public auction. Members of the Wheatley, Bell, Hastings, Records, Nelson, and Darby families have served as miller. The mill remained in operation until sometime in the late 1940's and finally torn down in the late 1960's or early 1970's.

Also nearby was another mill, a sawmill with the great saw moving up and down. It should be noted here that while the two mills were in close proximity, the grain mill operated on fresh water and the sawmill on salt water. In the early 1900's lumbering was also a big industry in the area. Small boats were loaded with a half-cord of wood and they would carry the wood to the river where it was loaded onto larger vessels at the end of Galestown Village. The area of the mills was once all water. There were great open spaces which have now filled with marsh and swamp vegetation. Tuckahoes, ironweed, and jopied flowers along with great patches of water lilies make these areas rich with beauty.

Among the oldest homes in Galestown are the homes of Miss Louise Hastings and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hughes. Miss Hastings's home dates back to the early 1800's and has parts put together with wooden pegs and a chimney that has evidence of being built with slave labor. The Hughes's home also dates back to the early 1800's.

The Byrd Truitt Farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Tull Jr., prior to the Civil War, was one of the places where Patty Cannon chained slaves to await shipment to the South. In the old barn now torn down and replaced were the staples to which the slaves were chained. It was in that barn that Joe King shot and killed Ebenezer Johnson. On "Tick Island" a

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short distance from the farm, slaves were chained to ~~trunks~~^{trees} with staples or bolts. According to Ted Giles, author of "Patty Cannon - Woman of Mystery", he and Elijah Wheedleton searched the area around 1963 and at that time could not find any trees that were one hundred and thirty years old.

Several stores and business establishments existed in Galestown during the mid and late 1800's and early 1900's. Among the earliest merchants in Galestown, if not the original, were Thomas Jackson Russell and John Collins. There are records to prove Mr. Russell was a merchant as early as 1841. Some of the early merchants were members of the Brinsfield, Russell, Bowman, Collins, and Wright families. The stores in Galestown served the needs of the people before modern transportation changed the shopping habits of the public. My own father used to like to recall receiving his first childhood toy from a Mr. Brinsfield's store in Galestown. At one time there was an oyster house operated by Mann (Picky) Eskridge. Miss Louise Hastings recalls a Mr. Bud Lowe operating a jewelry repair shop in his home in the early 1900's as well as a barber shop operated by Mr. William Wheatley.

At one time there was a general repair shop operated by George Jones. Mr. Jones, better known to residents of that time as "Squire Jones" was a wheelwright. He repaired wagons, worked as a blacksmith, and also made caskets. A number of food processing plants have operated in Galestown. The Ross, Fluharty, Neal, and Bramble Plants processed tomatoes and other vegetables. The canning house ceased all operation in 1959 and was last managed by Mr. Atlas Bramble. Mr. Edgar Calloway managed the canning house for a number of years. In the 1920's, there was a shirt factory in Galestown operated by Lynn Mann of Sharptown.

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Galestown residents taking part in the Civil War were Zora Lankford, William Lankford, William P. Walston, and William Hurtle. Mr. Walston, born August 16, 1838, died October 17, 1898 and is buried in the old Galestown cemetery beside the church. I was informed that Mr. Zora Lankford is buried in the old graveyard on a farm near Galestown presently owned by Harold Eskridge.

The Atlas of 1877 lists the following residents of the area with their land holdings.

James M. Gordy - 400 acres - Farmer from Sussex, Delaware
settled in 1863.
Perry G. Hackett - 400 acres - Farmer settled in 1818.
Sorin M. Gordy, - Teacher from Sussex, Del. settled in 1863.
John W. Payne - Teacher - Settled in 1845.
William L. Smoot - 95 acres, Farmer settled in 1843.
J. J. Truitt - 364 acres - Farmer settled in 1838.
A. B. Truitt - 150 acres - Farmer settled in 1845.
Captain C. Vincent - 1181 acres - settled in 1834.
Jesse K. Wheatley - 280 acres - Farmer settled in 1822.
T. T. Wheatley - Merchant - Settled in 1842.
A. T. Wheatley - 200 acres - Farmer settled in 1820.

A post office operated in Galestown until rural delivery replaced it in 1908. The village of Galestown has been served with rural delivery from Delaware since 1908, a fact that today's bureaucrats find confusing. Having a Seaford, Delaware address requires explaining to bureaucrats especially when one goes to get a Social Security card or a car title or registration card. However, after reviewing the matter for a year, the U. S. Postal Service now agrees with Galestown residents that it is in their best interests to retain mail delivery from and a mailing address of Seaford, Delaware. The early postmasters of Galestown were Joseph H. Bell, E. W. Bell, and Samuel T. Collins.

The Galestown School, which has been converted into two homes,

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originally had grades one through eight. Only a few children went on to high school in nearby Sharptown (1914). Some of the well remembered teachers from those early years were Miss Anna Collins, Miss Agnes Collins, Miss Blanche LeCompte, Miss Mary Hurlock, Miss Nellie James, Miss Lydia Gullette, Miss Katie Oliphant, Miss Emma Caulk, Miss Louise Hastings, Miss Mary Hummer Wootten and many other local ladies. Miss Louise is proud of the fact that the Galestown area has produced 50 teachers with Galestown proper having 26 of them. Galestown School closed in the 1940's with the children then transferred by bus to Hurlock and Eldorado. Now all children in Galestown travel by bus to elementary school in Hurlock or high school at Shiloh near Hurlock.

Galestown Methodist Episcopal Church was organized and ministered to by Rev. James Carroll. The church was dedicated February 1, 1880 and cost \$1,200. An earlier church had been erected in 1855 and was torn down and replaced with the present one. The land for the church was deeded from Joseph H. Bell and wife to John Collins and James T. Wallace in 1854. Evidently there was a lapse in church life due to the fact that it had to be reorganized in 1880. The church was remodeled inside in 1965 and dedicated April 2, 1967 by Rev. Paul McCoy, District Superintendent and Rev. Milton Elliott.

In 1970 Galestown United Methodist Church became part of the Sharptown Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church Charge and the current pastor is Rev. Alfred E. Taylor who has been pastor here since 1975 after graduating from Boston Theological Seminary. Rev. Taylor is a native of West Virginia.

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The parsonage for Galestown United Methodist Church was built in 1872, the land being given by Mr. Jobe Russell. The parsonage house no longer serves as the residence of Galestown's minister and is presently unoccupied.

The Galestown Community House was built in the 1930's when a Rev. Mr. Sharp was pastor of the church. Today the community house serves as a meeting place for various church-related activities and suppers.

In the early years of the Twentieth Century, Galestown grew many tomatoes, watermelons, and cantaloupes. In those days there were no migratory workers. The members of the families picked the fruit and vegetables. Buyers came from Baltimore and bought whole patches of watermelons from the farmers. The farmers still had to cut the melons and loaded them ^{for} ~~from~~ Baltimore delivery at Truitt's Wharf. Cantaloupes were picked and packed in carriers and taken by horse-drawn vehicles to commission markets in Seaford, Delaware where they were loaded on freight cars and transported to northern cities. Strawberries were also a very important product of the area.

The late Dr. Edwin R. Osler, a general practitioner from Pennsylvania, came to Galestown in 1880 and practiced medicine in Galestown for almost fifty years. The late Theophilus T. Wheatley (grandfather of Miss Louise Hastings) served as Sheriff of Dorchester County while the late John M. Hastings (also grandfather of Miss Louise Hastings) served as a Delegate from Dorchester County in the Maryland Legislature. The late Samuel Smoot served as a Dorchester County Commissioner.

While the community church and school served as social institutions of the area during the early 1900's, still another important organization

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came into being during this time. Every community is not just composed of people but most of the time, there are certain organizations which help make the community a place which is better known. Rescue Lodge \$ 155 Independent Order of Odd Fellows was a part of the Galestown community for 75 years, being instituted October 19, 1913. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is a world-wide organization under one head. There are lodges in every state of the union and many foreign countries. The Motto of Odd Fellowship is to visit the sick, Relieve the distressed, educate the orphans, and bury the dead. The Fraternal symbols are three links and an Open Bible. All these teachings are based upon the Bible. It supports Homes for Aged Members in most states and foreign countries and provides loans to worthy students to complete their education. It has a Research Chair of Eye Research at John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Although Rescue Lodge \$ 155 was a small lodge, yet one former member, Emerson Plummer, became Grand Master of the State of Maryland. One of its recent members, Roger Wheedleton, was Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment, which is a branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Due to decling membership and interest, Rescue Lodge \$ 155 officially disbanded in 1978 and remaining members trandferred to the Federalsburg chapter.

The present road through Galestown is not the same one that was in use in 1850. Before it was moved, the road more or less followed Gales Creek. The road was changed to its present location in 1855. Later it was covered with oyster shells and still later with a macadam surface.

More modern ways of living were beginning to make their debut in Galestown when telephones were introduced in the community in 1909. Electricity came to Galestown in 1915 mainly through the efforts of local citizens building the first electric line which was later sold to Eastern Shore Public Service.

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However, the rural area surrounding Galestown did not get electricity until 1941 when the R.E.A. line was completed.

Since then, the little community of Galestown has not changed much in size or stature except for the addition of another industry, Delaware Sand and Gravel Company, about 1939 which no longer is in existence. The company was sold to Gray Brothers about 1939 and evidently heirs of the Gray Brothers still own the land.

The town of Galestown was officially incorporated in 1950 with the first town commissioners being Walter J. Brady, William Collison, and Rose Bialk. The people elect three town commissioners for two-year terms each. Town elections are held every two years on the first Monday in June. The commissioner receiving the largest number of votes becomes the Mayor. The present town commissioners are: John H. Lankford (President and Mayor - 1983-1985): Rev. John B. Wooten - (Secretary - 1983-1985): and Edgar Ryle - (Treasurer - 1983-1985). The commissioners adapted new charter amendments to the Galestown town charter March 20, 1974 and adapted the initial town tax January 1, 1976. The commissioners have been considering adapting buiding codes and permits.

Today, Galestown is a small rural community with a population of approximately 125 people. The picturesque Galestown Millpond provides a beautiful setting for swimmers and boating enthusiasts with small boats and is certainly a fisherman's paradise. The local store, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Wheedleton, specializes in fresh seafood for sale.

The Galestown Ruritan Club was chartered in May, 1978. The charter members were Jack Wheatley, Thomas Wheatley, Jackson Bradshaw, Paul Calloway,

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Ralph Massey, Randall Marine, Harold Eskridge, William Eskridge Sr., Gary Cumberledge, John H. Lankford, William Eskridge Jr., Eddie Wheatley, Mike Wheatley, Brooks Wheatley, Rev. Alfred E. Taylor, and Robert Worden. The club's first officers were President: Jack Wheatley; Vice-President: Thomas Wheatley; Secretary: William Eskridge, Sr.; and Treasurer: Brooks Wheatley. At present, there are 22 members in the club.

Ruritan is a civic organization dedicated to community service whose objective is to bring about a closer social union between the farmers, the business, and professional people in a community in order to make it a better place in which to live.

A Ruritan Club is patterned after some of the service clubs we are familiar with in cities and town, but it is designed to help meet the needs of all cities, town, and rural communities.

Founded in 1929 in Holland, Virginia, Ruritans have grown to be the sixth largest civic organization in America. Membership in a local Ruritan Club includes workers in agriculture, business, and various other professional as well as community leaders.

The purpose is for the membership to be representative of the citizenship of the community in which it functions. The chief aim of Ruritan are (1) to create a better understanding between people, communities, and business; (2) to aid in charitable work; (3) to promote industrial and agricultural growth; and (4) to encourage the highest kind of education. Everything a Ruritan Club does is motivated by the desire to make the community a better place in which to live.

A major activity of the Galestown Ruritan Club is its annual Old-Timers Day held the fourth Saturday of September at the Sharptown carnival grounds

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parking lot. This is a fun-day for the whole family with exhibits, flea markets, plenty of food, and pony cart rides for the children.

Their annual Ladies Night Banquet is held in February at which time members receive membership attendance pins and other special awards they may have earned.

Frank Allen of the Galestown Ruritan Club currently serves as Zone Governor for Zone 5 Ruritan Clubs of which the Galestown Ruritan Club is a part.

The Galestown Ruritan Club meets the first Monday evening of each month and the members are served a dinner provided by the United Methodist Women of Galestown United Methodist Church.

In 1983 the residents of Galestown still maintain many of what are considered old-fashioned moral virtues of their forefathers and will normally provide a helping hand when a fellow citizen is in need. The citizens will also stick together to defeat anyone or anything trying to make drastic changes that would adversely affect their peaceful, rural way of life in their community. This fact was most recently put to the test in 1981 when the citizens of Galestown and its surrounding area banded together to fight the postal service's attempt to change their Route 3, Seaford, Delaware address to Route 1, Rhodesdale, Maryland which all felt would adversely affect the quality of their mail service.

Galestown holds a special place in many people's hearts because although people may move away, they often retain their friendships with Galestown people and come back to special services at Galestown United Methodist Church. Galestown is a caring community that reaches out and touches people in the spirit of the Lord and most people who live there find it a pleasant place to live.

D-657
GALESTOWN

J. W. Hastings

Res.
W. L. Smoot

Res.
A. T. Wheatley

J. R. Wheatley

J. K. Wheatley
Res.

C. Wheatley

Est. of
J. Collins

Est. of
S. B. Wheatley

Mrs. King
J. W. Collins
Geo. W. Jones

I. Cannon

J. H. Hobbs
J. G. Russell

P. T. Truett

GALESTOWN
P.O.

E. J. Stanton
J. H. Bell
J. K. Wheatley

S. Mill
G. Mill
P. J. H. Bell

Mrs. Collins
School No. 7
M. F. Ch.

Capt. C. Vincent

J. J. Truett
Res.

Res.
A. B. Truett

J. S. Vickers
C. Vickers
F. T. Jones

T. J. Russell
Wm. Hatcher
Wm. Hurl

G. C. Winsor
T. J. Russell
F. J. Jones

Wm. S. Vanglen
J. Short
Capt. J. Culway

R. W. Wheatley
B. D. Hackett Store
M. E. Parsonage

E. E. Wheatley
Capt. C. F. Walston
Dr. F. A. Roop

J. H. Weatherly
Wm. Smith
T. J. Low
Wm. L. Bell

Capt. C. Vincent
Wm. Walston

Wm. Williams
J. T. Culway

M. Culway
H. A. McWilliams
F. Winsor
P. Russell

Wm. Wheatley
H. Winsor

I. Thompson
J. Marine

B. McWilliams

SHARPTOWN

LAKE, GRIFFING & STEVENSON
1877

